

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 15, 2006, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I for further prosecution. Applicants also elect the sequences of Genus B for prosecution on the merits. Finally, Applicants submit herewith a Request for Extension of Time of two months thereby extending the period for response from December 15, 2006 to February 15, 2007.

Claims 69-78 have been canceled and new claims 79-91 submitted.

Claims 79 and 85 are drawn to nucleic acid molecules that comprise, or consist of, respectively, a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:30 under highly stringent conditions. Similarly, claim 83 is drawn to a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to a polynucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:29. Support for such molecules can be found in the specification, for example, on page 13, lines 4-28, and on page 8, lines 18-30, through page 9, lines 1-26.

Claims 79 and 85 are also drawn to nucleic acid molecules comprising regions of at least 20 nucleotides from specified nucleic acid molecules. Similarly, claim 83 is drawn to nucleic acid molecules comprising regions of at least 20 nucleotides from polynucleotides encoding proteins having specific SEQ ID NO's. Support for such molecules can be found in the specification, for example, on page 37, lines 24-30.

Claims 80 and 86 specify the claimed molecule comprise a nucleic acid sequence at least 95% identical to specified SEQ ID NO's. Support for such molecules can be found in the specification, for example, on page 11, lines 29-31, through page 12, lines 1-12.

Claims 81 and 88 specify the claimed nucleic acid molecules encode proteins capable of binding MHC molecules. Support for these claims can be found in the specification, for example, on page 4, lines 21-24.

Claim 90 specifies the claimed oligonucleotide be between 15 and 30 nucleotides in length. Support for such molecules can be found in the specification, for example, on page 39, lines 21-24.

Claim 91 specifies the claimed fragment must be at least 18 nucleotides in length. Support for such fragments can be found in the specification for example, on page 30, lines 19-20.

In view of the above support, Applicants submit that no new matter has been entered in to the Application.

I. Group Election

Applicants have elected Group I for further prosecution. Group I is drawn to the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NO's 1, 3, 28, 30 and 50. Polypeptide sequences encoded by the nucleic acids of Group I include SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:29.

II. Specie Election

Applicants have elected Genus B for further prosecution. Genus B includes the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NO's 28, 30 and 50. The polypeptide sequence encoded by the nucleic acids of Genus B is SEQ ID NO:29.

III. New Claims

In an effort to simplify examination, Applicants have canceled all previous claims and submitted new claims drawn to substantially the same subject matter as the canceled claims. Applicants believe the subject matter of the newly submitted claim set reads only upon elected Group I and Genus B.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all of the claims to be in condition for allowance. If it would be helpful to obtain favorable consideration of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call and discuss this case with the undersigned. This constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and an authorization to charge all fees therefore to deposit account No. 19-1970, if not otherwise specifically requested. The undersigned hereby authorizes the charge of any fees

created by the filing of this document or any deficiency of fees submitted herewith to be charged to deposit account No. 19-1970.

Respectfully submitted,

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